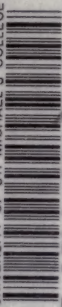


UNIVERSITY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE



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THE SERVICE EDITION  
OF  
THE WORKS OF  
RUDYARD KIPLING





BARRACK-ROOM BALLADS

AND OTHER VERSES

VOL. II



# BARRACK-ROOM BALLADS

AND OTHER VERSES

BY RUDYARD KIPLING

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. II



METHUEN AND CO., LTD.  
36 ESSEX STREET W.C.

*Forty-third Edition*



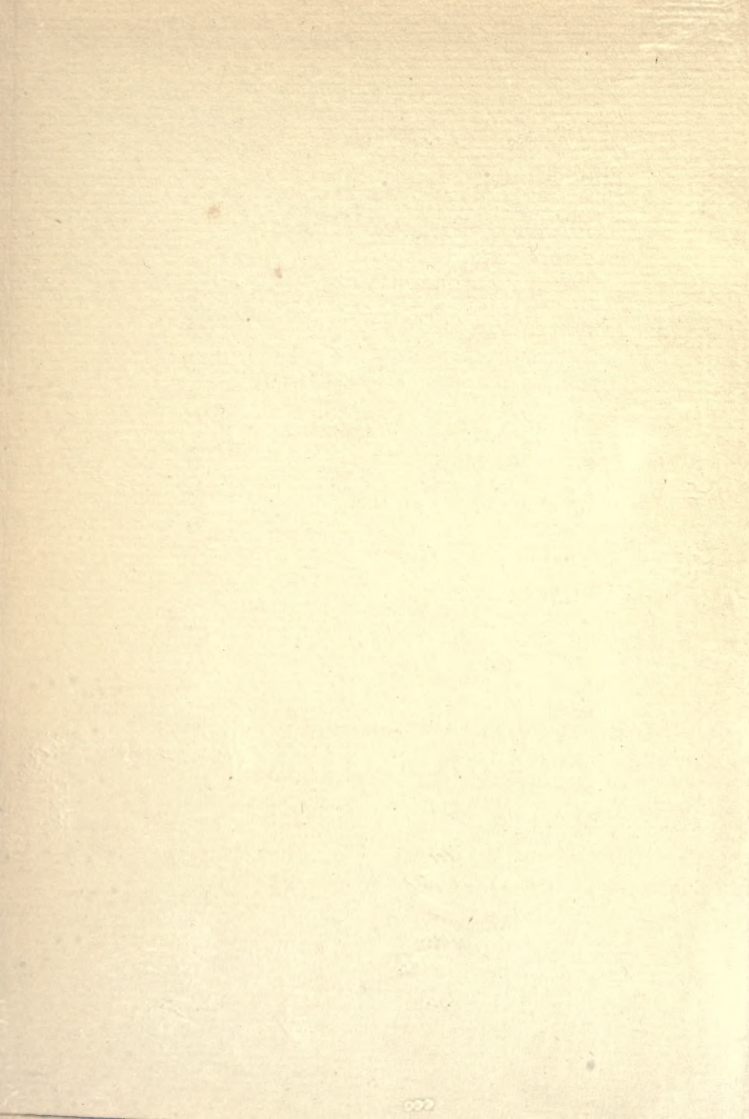
<i>First Published . . . . .</i>	<i>April 1892</i>
<i>Second, Third, and Fourth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1892</i>
<i>Fifth and Sixth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1893</i>
<i>Seventh Edition . . . . .</i>	<i>1894</i>
<i>Eighth Edition . . . . .</i>	<i>1895</i>
<i>Ninth and Tenth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1896</i>
<i>Eleventh and Twelfth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1897</i>
<i>Thirteenth and Fourteenth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1898</i>
<i>Fifteenth and Sixteenth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1899</i>
<i>Seventeenth and Eighteenth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1900</i>
<i>Nineteenth Edition . . . . .</i>	<i>1902</i>
<i>Twentieth Edition . . . . .</i>	<i>1903</i>
<i>Twenty-first Edition . . . . .</i>	<i>1905</i>
<i>Twenty-second and Twenty-third Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1907</i>
<i>Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1908</i>
<i>Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1909</i>
<i>Twenty-eighth Edition . . . . .</i>	<i>1910</i>
<i>Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1911</i>
<i>Thirty-first and Thirty-second Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1912</i>
<i>Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth, and Thirty-sixth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1913</i>
<i>Thirty-seventh, Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth, and Fortieth Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1914</i>
<i>Forty-first, Forty-second, and Forty-third Editions . . . . .</i>	<i>1915</i>



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## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

*More than a hundred years ago, in a great battle fought near Delhi, an Indian Prince rode fifty miles after the day was lost with a beggar-girl, who had loved him and followed him in all his camps, on his saddle-bow. He lost the girl when almost within sight of safety. A Maratta trooper tells the story:—*

THE wreath of banquet overnight lay withered on the neck,

Our hands and scarves were saffron-dyed for signal of despair,

When we went forth to Paniput to battle with the *Mlech*,—

Ere we came back from Paniput and left a kingdom there.

Thrice thirty thousand men were we to force the Jumna fords—

The hawk-winged horse of Damajee, mailed squadrons of the Bhao,

## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

Stark levies of the southern hills, the Deccan's  
sharpest swords,  
And he the harlot's traitor son the goatherd  
Mulhar Rao !

Thrice thirty thousand men were we before the  
mists had cleared,  
The low white mists of morning heard the  
war-conch scream and bray ;  
We called upon Bhowani and we gripped them  
by the beard,  
We rolled upon them like a flood and washed  
their ranks away.

The children of the hills of Khost before our  
lances ran,  
We drove the black Rohillas back as cattle to  
the pen ;

## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

'Twas then we needed Mulhar Rao to end what  
we began,

A thousand men had saved the charge ; he  
fled the field with ten !

There was no room to clear a sword—no power  
to strike a blow,

For foot to foot, ay, breast to breast, the battle  
held us fast—

Save where the naked hill-men ran, and stabbing  
from below

Brought down the horse and rider and we  
trampled them and passed.

To left the roar of musketry rang like a falling  
flood—

To right the sunshine rippled red from redder  
lance and blade—

## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

Above the dark *Upsaras*<sup>1</sup> flew, beneath us  
plashed the blood,  
And, bellying black against the dust, the  
Bhagwa Jhanda swayed.

I saw it fall in smoke and fire, the banner of the  
Bhao ;

I heard a voice across the press of one who  
called in vain :—

‘ Ho ! Anand Rao Nimbalkhur, ride ! Get aid  
of Mulhar Rao !

‘ Go shame his squadrons into fight—the  
Bhao—the Bhao is slain ! ’

Thereat, as when a sand-bar breaks in clotted  
spume and spray—

When rain of later autumn sweeps the Jumna  
water-head,

<sup>1</sup> The Choosers of the Slain.



## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

Before their charge from flank to flank our riven  
ranks gave way ;

But of the waters of that flood the Jumna  
fords ran red.

I held by Scindia, my lord, as close as man might  
hold ;

A Soobah of the Deccan asks no aid to guard  
his life ;

But Holkar's Horse were flying, and our chiefest  
chiefs were cold,

And like a flame among us leapt the long lean  
Northern knife.

I held by Scindia—my lance from butt to tuft  
was dyed,

The froth of battle bossed the shield and roped  
the bridle-chain—

## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

What time beneath our horses' feet a maiden  
rose and cried,  
And clung to Scindia, and I turned a sword-  
cut from the twain.

(He set a spell upon the maid in woodlands long  
ago,  
A hunter by the Tapti banks she gave him  
water there :  
He turned her heart to water, and she followed  
to her woe.  
What need had he of Lalun who had twenty  
maids as fair ?)

Now in that hour strength left my lord ; he  
wrenched his mare aside ;  
He bound the girl behind him and we slashed  
and struggled free.

## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

Across the reeling wreck of strife we rode as  
shadows ride

From Paniput to Delhi town, but not alone  
were we.

'Twas Lutuf-Ullah Populzai laid horse upon our  
track,

A swine-fed reiver of the North that lusted for  
the maid ;

I might have barred his path awhile, but Scindia  
called me back,

And I—O woe for Scindia !—I listened and  
obeyed.

League after league the formless scrub took  
shape and glided by—

League after league the white road swirled  
behind the white mare's feet—

## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

League after league, when leagues were done, we  
heard the Populzai,  
Where sure as Time and swift as Death the  
tireless footfall beat.

Noon's eye beheld that shame of flight, the  
shadows fell, we fled  
Where steadfast as the wheeling kite he fol-  
lowed in our train ;  
The black wolf warred where we had warred, the  
jackal mocked our dead,  
And terror born of twilight-tide made mad  
the labouring brain.

I gasped :—‘ A kingdom waits my lord ; her  
love is but her own.  
‘ A day shall mar, a day shall cure for her, but  
what for thee ?



## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

‘Cut loose the girl : he follows fast. Cut loose  
and ride alone !’

Then Scindia ’twixt his blistered lips :—‘ My  
Queens’ Queen shall she be !

‘Of all who ate my bread last night ’twas she  
alone that came

‘To seek her love between the spears and find  
her crown therein !

‘One shame is mine to-day, what need the weight  
of double shame ?

‘If once we reach the Delhi gate, though all  
be lost, I win !’

We rode—the white mare failed—her trot a  
staggering stumble grew,—

The cooking-smoke of even rose and weltered  
and hung low ;

## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

And still we heard the Populzai and still we  
strained anew,

And Delhi town was very near, but nearer was  
the foe.

Yea, Delhi town was very near when Lalun  
whispered :—‘ Slay !

‘ Lord of my life, the mare sinks fast—stab  
deep and let me die ! ’

But Scindia would not, and the maid tore free  
and flung away,

And turning as she fell we heard the clattering  
Populzai.

Then Scindia checked the gasping mare that  
rocked and groaned for breath,

And wheeled to charge and plunged the knife  
a handsbreadth in her side—

## WITH SCINDIA TO DELHI

The hunter and the hunted know how that last  
pause is death—

The blood had chilled about her heart, she  
reared and fell and died.

Our Gods were kind. Before he heard the  
maiden's piteous scream

A log upon the Delhi road, beneath the mare  
he lay—

Lost mistress and lost battle passed before him  
like a dream ;

The darkness closed about his eyes—I bore  
my King away.

## THE BALLAD OF BOH DA THONE

*This is the ballad of Boh Da Thone,  
Erst a Pretender to Theebaw's throne,  
Who harried the district of Alalone :  
How he met with his fate and the V.P.P.  
At the hand of Harendra Mukerji,  
Senior Gomashta, G.B.T.*

BOH DA THONE was a warrior bold :  
His sword and his Snider were bossed with  
gold,

And the Peacock Banner his henchmen bore  
Was stiff with bullion, but stiffer with gore.

He shot at the strong and he slashed at the weak  
From the Salween scrub to the Chindwin teak :

He crucified noble, he sacrificed mean,  
He filled old ladies with kerosene :



## BOH DA THONE

While over the water the papers cried,  
'The patriot fights for his countryside!'

But little they cared for the Native Press,  
The worn white soldiers in khaki dress,

Who tramped through the jungle and camped  
in the byre,

Who died in the swamp and were tombed in the  
mire,

Who gave up their lives, at the Queen's Com-  
mand,

For the Pride of their Race and the Peace of the  
Land.

Now, first of the foemen of Boh Da Thone  
Was Captain O'Neil of the 'Black Tyrone,'

And his was a Company, seventy strong,  
Who hustled that dissolute Chief along.

## THE BALLAD OF

There were lads from Galway and Louth and  
Meath

Who went to their death with a joke in their  
teeth,

And worshipped with fluency, fervour, and zeal  
The mud on the boot-heels of ' Crook ' O'Neil.

But ever a blight on their labours lay,  
And ever their quarry would vanish away,

Till the sun-dried boys of the Black Tyrone  
Took a brotherly interest in Boh Da Thone :

And, sooth, if pursuit in possession ends,  
The Boh and his trackers were best of friends.

The word of a scout—a march by night—  
A rush through the mist—a scattering fight—

## BOH DA THONE

A volley from cover—a corpse in the clearing—  
The glimpse of a loin-cloth and heavy jade ear-  
ring—

The flare of a village—the tally of slain—  
And . . . the Boh was abroad ‘on the raid’  
again !

They cursed their luck, as the Irish will,  
They gave him credit for cunning and skill,

They buried their dead, they bolted their beef,  
And started anew on the track of the thief

Till, in place of the ‘Kalends of Greece,’ men  
said,

‘When Crook and his darlings come back with  
the head.’

They had hunted the Boh from the hills to the  
plain—

He doubled and broke for the hills again :

## THE BALLAD OF

They had crippled his power for rapine and  
raid,

They had routed him out of his pet stockade,

And at last, they came, when the Day Star  
tired,

To a camp deserted—a village fired.

A black cross blistered the Morning-gold,  
And the body upon it was stark and cold.

The wind of the dawn went merrily past,  
The high grass bowed her plumes to the blast.

And out of the grass, on a sudden, broke  
A spirtle of fire, a whorl of smoke—

And Captain O'Neil of the Black Tyrone  
Was blessed with a slug in the ulnar-bone—  
The gift of his enemy Boh Da Thone,

## BOH DA THONE

(Now a slug that is hammered from telegraph-  
wire

Is a thorn in the flesh and a rankling fire.)

. . . . .  
The shot-wound festered—as shot-wounds may  
In a steaming barrack at Mandalay.

The left arm throbbed, and the Captain swore,  
‘ I ’d like to be after the Boh once more ! ’

The fever held him—the Captain said,  
‘ I ’d give a hundred to look at his head ! ’

The Hospital punkahs creaked and whirred,  
But Babu Harendra (Gomashta) heard.

He thought of the cane-brake, green and dank,  
That girdled his home by the Dacca tank.

He thought of his wife and his High School son,  
He thought—but abandoned the thought—of a  
gun.



## THE BALLAD OF

His sleep was broken by visions dread  
Of a shining Boh with a silver head.

He kept his counsel and went his way,  
And swindled the cartmen of half their pay.

. . . . .

And the months went on, as the worst must do,  
And the Boh returned to the raid anew.

But the Captain had quitted the long-drawn  
strife,

And in far Simoorie had taken a wife.

And she was a damsel of delicate mould,  
With hair like the sunshine and heart of gold,

And little she knew the arms that embraced  
Had cloven a man from the brow to the waist :

And little she knew that the loving lips  
Had ordered a quivering life's eclipse,

## BOH DA THONE

And the eye that lit at her lightest breath  
Had glared unawed in the Gates of Death.

(For these be matters a man would hide,  
As a general rule, from an innocent Bride.)

And little the Captain thought of the past,  
And, of all men, Babu Harendra last.

. . . . .  
But slow, in the sludge of the Kathun road,  
The Government Bullock Train toted its load.

Speckless and spotless and shining with *ghee*,  
In the rearmost cart sat the Babu-jee.

And ever a phantom before him fled  
Of a scowling Boh with a silver head.

Then the lead-cart stuck, though the coolies  
slaved,  
And the cartmen flogged and the escort raved ;

## THE BALLAD OF

And out of the jungle, with yells and squeals,  
Pranced Boh Da Thone, and his gang at his  
heels !

Then belching blunderbuss answered back  
The Snider's snarl and the carbine's crack,

And the blithe revolver began to sing  
To the blade that twanged on the locking-ring,

And the brown flesh blued where the bay'net  
kissed,

As the steel shot back with a wrench and a  
twist,

And the great white bullocks with onyx eyes  
Watched the souls of the dead arise,

And over the smoke of the fusillade  
The Peacock Banner staggered and swayed.

## BOH DA THONE

Oh, gayest of scrimmages man may see  
Is a well-worked rush on the G.B.T. !

The Babu shook at the horrible sight,  
And girded his ponderous loins for flight,

But Fate had ordained that the Boh should start  
On a lone-hand raid of the rearmost cart,

And out of that cart, with a bellow of woe,  
The Babu fell—flat on the top of the Boh !

For years had Harendra served the State,  
To the growth of his purse and the girth of his  
*pêl.*

There were twenty stone, as the tally-man knows,  
On the broad of the chest of this best of Bohs.

And twenty stone from a height discharged  
Are bad for a Boh with a spleen enlarged.

## THE BALLAD OF

Oh, short was the struggle—severe was the  
shock—

He dropped like a bullock—he lay like a block ;

And the Babu above him, convulsed with fear,  
Heard the labouring life-breath hissed out in his  
ear.

And thus in a fashion undignified  
The princely pest of the Chindwin died.

. . . . .  
Turn now to Simoorie where, lapped in his ease,  
The Captain is petting the Bride on his knees,

Where the *whit* of the bullet, the wounded man's  
scream

Are mixed as the mist of some devilish dream—

Forgotten, forgotten the sweat of the shambles  
Where the hill-daisy blooms and the grey  
monkey gambols,



## BOH DA THONE

From the sword-belt set free and released from  
the steel,

The Peace of the Lord is with Captain O'Neil.

Up the hill to Simoorie—most patient of  
drudges—

The bags on his shoulder, the mail-runner  
trudges.

‘ For Captain O'Neil, *Sahib*. One hundred and  
ten

‘ Rupees to collect on delivery.’

Then

(Their breakfast was stopped while the screw-  
jack and hammer

Tore waxcloth, split teak-wood, and chipped out  
the dammer ;)

Open-eyed, open-mouthed, on the napery's snow,  
With a crash and a thud, rolled—the Head of  
the Boh !



## THE BALLAD OF

And gummed to the scalp was a letter which  
ran :—

‘ IN FIELDING FORCE SERVICE.

‘ *Encampment,*

‘ 10th Jan.

‘ Dear Sir,—I have honour to send, *as you said,*

‘ For final approval (see under) Boh’s Head ;

‘ Was took by myself in most bloody affair.

‘ By High Education brought pressure to bear.

‘ Now violate Liberty, time being bad,

‘ To mail V.P.P. (rupees hundred) Please add

‘ Whatever Your Honour can pass. Price of  
Blood

‘ Much cheap at one hundred, and children want  
food ;

‘ So trusting Your Honour will somewhat retain

‘ True love and affection for Govt. Bullock Train,

BOH DA THONE

‘ And show awful kindness to satisfy me,

‘ I am,

‘ Graceful Master,

‘ Your

‘ H. MUKERJI.’

. . . . .

As the rabbit is drawn to the rattlesnake’s power,

As the smoker’s eye fills at the opium hour,

As a horse reaches up to the manger above,

As the waiting ear yearns for the whisper of love,

From the arms of the Bride, iron-visaged and  
slow,

The Captain bent down to the Head of the Boh.

And e’en as he looked on the Thing where It lay  
’Twixt the winking new spoons and the napkins’  
array,

## THE BALLAD OF

The freed mind fled back to the long-ago days—  
The hand-to-hand scuffle—the smoke and the  
blaze—

The forced march at night and the quick rush at  
dawn—

The banjo at twilight, the burial ere morn—

The stench of the marshes—the raw, piercing  
smell

When the overhand stabbing-cut silenced the  
yell—

The oaths of his Irish that surged when they  
stood

Where the black crosses hung o'er the Kuttamow  
flood.

As a derelict ship drifts away with the tide  
The Captain went out on the Past from his Bride,

## BOH DA THONE

Back, back, through the springs to the chill of  
the year,

When he hunted the Boh from Maloon to Tsaleer.

As the shape of a corpse dimmers up through  
deep water,

In his eye lit the passionless passion of slaughter,

And men who had fought with O'Neil for the life  
Had gazed on his face with less dread than his  
wife.

For she who had held him so long could not hold  
him—

Though a four-month Eternity should have controlled him—

But watched the twin Terror—the head turned  
to head—

The scowling, scarred Black, and the flushed  
savage Red—

## THE BALLAD OF

The spirit that changed from her knowing and  
flew to

Some grim hidden Past she had never a clue to.

But It knew as It grinned, for he touched it  
unfearing,

And muttered aloud, 'So you kept that jade  
earring!'

Then nodded, and kindly, as friend nods to  
friend,

'Old man, you fought well, but you lost in the  
end.'

. . . . .

The visions departed, and Shame followed  
Passion :—

'He took what I said in this horrible fashion,

'*I'll* write to Harendra!' With language un-  
sainted



## BOH DA THONE

The Captain came back to the Bride . . . who  
had fainted.

. . . . .

And this is a fiction ? No. Go to Simoorie  
And look at their baby, a twelve-month old  
Houri,

A pert little, Irish-eyed Kathleen Mavournin—  
She 's always about on the Mall of a mornin'—

And you 'll see, if her right shoulder-strap is  
displaced,

This : *Gules* upon *argent*, a Boh's Head, *erased* !

## THE LAMENT OF THE BORDER CATTLE THIEF

O WOE is me for the merry life  
I led beyond the Bar,  
And a treble woe for my winsome wife  
That weeps at Shalimar.

They have taken away my long jezail,  
My shield and sabre fine,  
And heaved me into the Central Jail  
For lifting of the kine.

The steer may low within the byre,  
The Jut may tend his grain,  
But there 'll be neither loot nor fire  
Till I come back again.

## BORDER CATTLE THIEF

And God have mercy on the Jut  
When once my fetters fall,  
And Heaven defend the farmer's hut  
When I am loosed from thrall.

It's woe to bend the stubborn back  
Above the grinching quern,  
It's woe to hear the leg-bar clack  
And jingle when I turn !

But for the sorrow and the shame,  
The brand on me and mine,  
I'll pay you back in leaping flame  
And loss of the butchered kine.

For every cow I spared before  
In charity set free,  
If I may reach my hold once more  
I'll reive an honest three.



## THE LAMENT OF THE

For every time I raised the lowe  
That scared the dusty plain,  
By sword and cord, by torch and tow  
I 'll light the land with twain !

Ride hard, ride hard to Abazai,  
Young *Sahib* with the yellow hair—  
Lie close, lie close as khuttucks lie,  
Fat herds below Bonair.

The one I 'll shoot at twilight-tide,  
At dawn I 'll drive the other ;  
The black shall mourn for hoof and hide,  
The white man for his brother.

'Tis war, red war, I 'll give you then,  
War till my sinews fail ;  
For the wrong you have done to a chief of  
men,  
And a thief of the Zukka Kheyl.

## BORDER CATTLE THIEF

And if I fall to your hand afresh

I give you leave for the sin,

That you cram my throat with the foul pig's  
flesh,

And swing me in the skin !

## THE RHYME OF THE THREE CAPTAINS

*This ballad appears to refer to one of the exploits of the notorious Paul Jones, the American pirate. It is founded on fact.*

. . . **A**T the close of a winter day,  
Their anchors down, by London  
town, the Three Great Captains lay ;  
And one was Admiral of the North from Solway  
Firth to Skye,  
And one was the Lord of the Wessex coast and  
all the lands thereby,  
And one was Master of the Thames from Lime-  
house to Blackwall,  
And he was Captain of the Fleet—the bravest of  
them all.



## THE THREE CAPTAINS

Their good guns guarded the great grey sides  
that were thirty foot in the sheer,

When there came a certain trading brig with  
news of a privateer.

Her rigging was rough with the clotted drift that  
drives in a Northern breeze,

Her sides were clogged with the lazy weed that  
spawns in the Eastern seas.

Light she rode in the rude tide-rip, to left and  
right she rolled,

And the skipper sat on the scuttle-butt and  
stared at an empty hold.

‘I ha’ paid Port dues for your Law,’ quoth he,  
‘and where is the Law ye boast

‘If I sail unscathed from a heathen port to be  
robbed on a Christian coast?

‘Ye have smoked the hives of the Laccadives as  
we burn the lice in a bunk,

‘We tack not now to a Gallang prow or a plung-  
ing Pei-ho junk;

## THE RHYME OF

- ‘ I had no fear but the seas were clear as far as a  
sail might fare
- ‘ Till I met with a lime-washed Yankee brig that  
rode off Finisterre.
- ‘ There were canvas blinds to his bow-gun ports  
to screen the weight he bore,
- ‘ And the signals ran for a merchantman from  
Sandy Hook to the Nore.
- ‘ He would not fly the Rovers’ flag—the bloody  
or the black,
- ‘ But now he floated the Gridiron and now he  
flaunted the Jack.
- ‘ He spoke of the Law as he crimped my crew—  
he swore it was only a loan ;
- ‘ But when I would ask for my own again, he  
swore it was none of my own.
- ‘ He has taken my little parrakeets that nest  
beneath the Line,
- ‘ He has stripped my rails of the shaddock-frails  
and the green unripened pine ;

## THE THREE CAPTAINS

- ‘ He has taken my bale of dammer and spice I  
won beyond the seas,
- ‘ He has taken my grinning heathen gods—and  
what should he want o’ these ?
- ‘ My foremast would not mend his boom, my  
deck-house patch his boats ;
- ‘ He has whittled the two, this Yank Yahoo, to  
peddle for shoe-peg oats.
- ‘ I could not fight for the failing light and a rough  
beam-sea beside,
- ‘ But I hulled him once for a clumsy crimp and  
twice because he lied.
- ‘ Had I had guns (as I had goods) to work my  
Christian harm,
- ‘ I had run him up from his quarter-deck to trade  
with his own yard-arm ;
- ‘ I had nailed his ears to my capstan-head, and  
ripped them off with a saw,
- ‘ And soused them in the bilgewater, and served  
them to him raw ;

## THE RHYME OF

- ‘ I had flung him blind in a rudderless boat to  
rot in the rocking dark,  
‘ I had towed him aft of his own craft, a bait for  
his brother shark ;  
‘ I had lapped him round with cocoa husk, and  
drenched him with the oil,  
‘ And lashed him fast to his own mast to blaze  
above my spoil ;  
‘ I had stripped his hide for my hammock-side,  
and tasselled his beard i’ the mesh,  
‘ And spitted his crew on the live bamboo that  
grows through the gangrened flesh ;  
‘ I had hove him down by the mangroves brown,  
where the mud-reef sucks and draws,  
‘ Moored by the heel to his own keel to wait for  
the land-crab’s claws !  
‘ He is lazar within and lime without, ye can  
nose him far enow,  
‘ For he carries the taint of a musky ship—the  
reek of the slaver’s dhow ! ’

## THE THREE CAPTAINS

The skipper looked at the tiering guns and the  
bulwarks tall and cold,

And the Captains Three full courteously peered  
down at the gutted hold,

And the Captains Three called courteously from  
deck to scuttle-butt :—

‘ Good Sir, we ha’ dealt with that merchantman  
or ever your teeth were cut.

‘ Your words be words of a lawless race, and the  
Law it standeth thus :

‘ He comes of a race that have never a Law, and  
he never has boarded us.

‘ We ha’ sold him canvas and rope and spar—we  
know that his price is fair,

‘ And we know that he weeps for the lack of a  
Law as he rides off Finisterre.

‘ And since he is damned for a gallows-thief by  
you and better than you,

‘ We hold it meet that the English fleet should  
know that we hold him true.’

## THE RHYME OF

The skipper called to the tall taffrail :—‘ And  
what is that to me ?

‘ Did ever you hear of a Yankee brig that rifled  
a Seventy-three ?

‘ Do I loom so large from your quarter-deck that  
I lift like a ship o’ the Line ?

‘ He has learned to run from a shotted gun and  
harry such craft as mine.

‘ There is never a Law on the Cocos Keys to hold  
a white man in,

‘ But we do not steal the niggers’ meal, for that  
is a nigger’s sin.

‘ Must he have his Law as a quid to chew, or  
laid in brass on his wheel ?

‘ Does he steal with tears when he buccaneers ?  
’Fore Gad, then, why does he steal ? ’

The skipper bit on a deep-sea word, and the  
word it was not sweet,

For he could see the Captains Three had sig-  
nalled to the Fleet.



## THE THREE CAPTAINS

But thrée and two, in white and blue, the whim-  
pering flags began :—

‘ We have heard a tale of a—foreign sail, but he  
is a merchantman.’

The skipper peered beneath his palm and swore  
by the Great Horn Spoon :—

‘Fore Gad, the Chaplain of the Fleet would bless  
my picaroon !’

By two and three the flags blew free to lash the  
laughing air :—

‘ We have sold our spars to the merchantman—  
we know that his price is fair.’

The skipper winked his Western eye, and swore  
by a China storm :—

‘ They ha’ rigged him a Joseph’s jury-coat to  
keep his honour warm.’

The halliards twanged against the tops, the  
bunting bellied broad,

The skipper spat in the empty hold and mourned  
for a wasted cord.

## THE RHYME OF

Masthead—masthead, the signal sped by the  
line o' the British craft :

The skipper called to his Lascar crew, and put  
her about and laughed :—

' It 's mainsail haul, my bully boys all—we 'll  
out to the seas again—

' Ere they set us to paint their pirate saint, or  
scrub at his grapnel-chain.

' It 's fore-sheet free, with her head to the sea,  
and the swing of the unbought brine—

' We 'll make no sport in an English court till  
we come as a ship o' the Line :

' Till we come as a ship o' the Line, my lads, of  
thirty foot in the sheer,

' Lifting again from the outer main with news  
of a privateer ;

' Flying his pluck at our mizzen-truck for weft  
of Admiralty,

' Heaving his head for our dipsy-lead in sign  
that we keep the sea.

## THE THREE CAPTAINS

- ‘ Then fore-sheet home as she lifts to the foam  
—we stand on the outward tack,
- ‘ We are paid in the coin of the white man’s trade  
—the bezant is hard, ay, and black.
- ‘ The frigate-bird shall carry my word to the  
Kling and the Orang-Laut
- ‘ How a man may sail from a heathen coast to be  
robbed in a Christian port ;
- ‘ How a man may be robbed in Christian port  
while Three Great Captains there
- ‘ Shall dip their flag to a slaver’s rag—to show  
that his trade is fair ! ’

## THE BALLAD OF THE 'CLAMPHER- DOWN'

**I**T was our war-ship 'Clampherdown'  
Would sweep the Channel clean,  
Wherefore she kept her hatches close  
When the merry Channel chops arose,  
To save the bleached marine.

She had one bow-gun of a hundred ton,  
And a great stern-gun beside ;  
They dipped their noses deep in the sea,  
They racked their stays and stanchions free  
In the wash of the wind-whipped tide.

It was our war-ship 'Clampherdown'  
Fell in with a cruiser light  
That carried the dainty Hotchkiss gun  
And a pair o' heels wherewith to run  
From the grip of a close-fought fight.

## THE 'CLAMPHERDOWN'

She opened fire at seven miles—

As ye shoot at a bobbing cork—

And once she fired and twice she fired,

Till the bow-gun drooped like a lily tired

That lolls upon the stalk.

'Captain, the bow-gun melts apace,

'The deck-beams break below,

'Twere well to rest for an hour or twain,

'And botch the shattered plates again.'

And he answered, 'Make it so.'

She opened fire within the mile—

As ye shoot at the flying duck—

And the great stern-gun shot fair and true,

With the heave of the ship, to the stainless  
blue,

And the great stern-turret stuck.

## THE BALLAD OF

‘ Captain, the turret fills with steam,  
‘ The feed-pipes burst below—  
‘ You can hear the hiss of the helpless ram,  
‘ You can hear the twisted runners jam.’  
And he answered, ‘ Turn and go ! ’

It was our war-ship ‘ Clampherdawn,’  
And grimly did she roll ;  
Swung round to take the cruiser’s fire  
As the White Whale faces the Thresher’s  
ire  
When they war by the frozen Pole.

‘ Captain, the shells are falling fast,  
‘ And faster still fall we ;  
‘ And it is not meet for English stock  
‘ To bide in the heart of an eight-day clock  
‘ The death they cannot see.’



## THE 'CLAMPHERDOWN'

' Lie down, lie down, my bold A.B.,

' We drift upon her beam ;

' We dare not ram, for she can run ;

' And dare ye fire another gun,

' And die in the peeling steam ? '

It was our war-ship ' Clampherdown '

That carried an armour-belt ;

But fifty feet at stern and bow

Lay bare as the paunch of the purser's sow,

To the hail of the Nordenfeldt.

' Captain, they hack us through and through ;

' The chilled steel bolts are swift !

' We have emptied the bunkers in open sea,

' Their shrapnel bursts where our coal should  
be.'

And he answered, ' Let her drift.'

## THE BALLAD OF

It was our war-ship 'Clampherdown,'  
Swung round upon the tide,  
Her two dumb guns glared south and north,  
And the blood and the bubbling steam ran  
forth,  
And she ground the cruiser's side.

'Captain, they cry, the fight is done,  
'They bid you send your sword.'  
And he answered, 'Grapple her stern and bow.  
'They have asked for the steel. They shall  
have it now ;  
'Out cutlasses and board !'

It was our war-ship 'Clampherdown,'  
Spewed up four hundred men ;  
And the scalded stokers yelped delight,  
As they rolled in the waist and heard the  
fight,  
Stamp o'er their steel-walled pen.

## THE ' CLAMPHERDOWN '

They cleared the cruiser end to end,  
From conning-tower to hold.  
They fought as they fought in Nelson's fleet ;  
They were stripped to the waist, they were  
bare to the feet,  
As it was in the days of old.

It was the sinking ' Clampherdown '  
Heaved up her battered side—  
And carried a million pounds in steel  
To the cod and the corpse-fed conger-eel,  
And the scour of the Channel tide.

It was the crew of the ' Clampherdown '  
Stood out to sweep the sea,  
On a cruiser won from an ancient foe,  
As it was in the days of long ago,  
And as it still shall be.

## THE BALLAD OF THE 'BOLIVAR'

*SEVEN men from all the world back to Docks  
again,*

*Rolling down the Ratcliffe Road drunk and rais-  
ing Cain :*

*Give the girls another drink 'fore we sign away—  
We that took the 'Bolivar' out across the Bay !*

We put out from Sunderland loaded down with  
rails ;

We put back to Sunderland 'cause our cargo  
shifted ;

We put out from Sunderland—met the winter  
gales—

Seven days and seven nights to the Start we  
drifted.

## THE ' BOLIVAR '

Racketing her rivets loose, smoke-stack  
white as snow,

All the coals adrift adeck, half the rails below,  
Leaking like a lobster-pot, steering like a  
dray—

Out we took the ' Bolivar,' out across the  
Bay !

One by one the Lights came up, winked and let  
us by ;

Mile by mile we waddled on, coal and fo'c'sle  
short ;

Met a blow that laid us down, heard a bulk-  
head fly ;

Left the ' Wolf ' behind us with a two-foot list  
to port.

Trailing like a wounded duck, working out  
her soul ;

Clanging like a smithy-shop after every roll ;



## THE BALLAD OF

Just a funnel and a mast lurching through  
the spray—

So we threshed the 'Bolivar' out across the  
Bay!

Felt her hog and felt her sag, betted when she 'd  
break;

Wondered every time she raced if she 'd stand  
the shock;

Heard the seas like drunken men pounding at  
her strake;

Hoped the Lord 'ud keep His thumb on the  
plummer-block.

Banged against the iron decks, bilges choked  
with coal;

Flayed and frozen foot and hand, sick of  
heart and soul;

Last we prayed she 'd buck herself into  
Judgment Day—

## THE 'BOLIVAR'

Hi! we cursed the 'Bolivar' knocking  
round the Bay!

O her nose flung up to sky, groaning to be  
still—

Up and down and back we went, never time  
for breath;

Then the money paid at Lloyd's caught her by  
the heel,

And the stars ran round and round dancin' at  
our death.

Aching for an hour's sleep, dozing off be-  
tween;

Heard the rotten rivets draw when she took  
it green;

Watched the compass chase its tail like a  
cat at play—

That was on the 'Bolivar,' south across the  
Bay.



## THE BALLAD OF

Once we saw between the squalls, lyin' head to  
swell—

Mad with work and weariness, wishin' they  
was we—

Some damned Liner's lights go by like a grand  
hotel ;

Cheered her from the ' Bolivar ' swampin' in  
the sea.

Then a greyback cleared us out, then the  
skipper laughed ;

' Boys, the wheel has gone to Hell—rig the  
winches aft !

' Yoke the kicking rudder-head—get her  
under way !'

So we steered her, pully-haul, out across the  
Bay !

Just a pack o' rotten plates puttied up with tar,  
In we came, an' time enough, 'cross Bilbao Bar.

## THE ' BOLIVAR '

Overloaded, undermanned, meant to founder,  
we  
Euchred God Almighty's storm, bluffed the  
Eternal Sea !

*Seven men from all the world, back to town again,  
Rollin' down the Ratcliffe Road drunk and raising  
Cain :*

*Seven men from out of Hell. Ain't the owners gay,  
'Cause we took the ' Bolivar ' safe across the Bay ?*

## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

*ER-HEB beyond the Hills of Ao-Safai  
Bears witness to the truth, and Ao-Safai  
Hath told the men of Gorukh. Thence the tale  
Comes westward o'er the peaks to India.*

The story of Bisesa, Armod's child,—  
A maiden plighted to the Chief in War  
The Man of Sixty Spears, who held the Pass  
That leads to Thibet, but to-day is gone  
To seek his comfort of the God called Budh  
The Silent—showing how the Sickness ceased  
Because of her who died to save the tribe.

Taman is One and greater than us all,  
Taman is One and greater than all Gods :  
Taman is Two in One and rides the sky,  
Curved like a stallion's croup, from dusk to dawn,

## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

And drums upon it with his heels, whereby  
Is bred the neighing thunder in the hills.

This is Taman, the God of all Er-Heb,  
Who was before all Gods, and made all Gods,  
And presently will break the Gods he made,  
And step upon the Earth to govern men  
Who give him milk-dry ewes and cheat his Priests,  
Or leave his shrine unlighted—as Er-Heb  
Left it unlighted and forgot Taman,  
When all the Valley followed after Kysh  
And Yabosh, little Gods but very wise,  
And from the sky Taman beheld their sin.

He sent the sickness out upon the hills,  
The Red Horse Sickness with the iron hooves,  
To turn the Valley to Taman again.

And the Red Horse snuffed thrice into the wind,  
The naked wind that had no fear of him ;

## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

And the Red Horse stamped thrice upon the snow,  
The naked snow that had no fear of him ;  
And the Red Horse went out across the rocks,  
The ringing rocks that had no fear of him ;  
And downward, where the lean birch meets the  
    snow,  
And downward, where the grey pine meets the  
    birch,  
And downward, where the dwarf oak meets the  
    pine,  
Till at his feet our cup-like pastures lay.

That night, the slow mists of the evening  
    dropped,  
Dropped as a cloth upon a dead man's face,  
And weltered in the valley, bluish-white  
Like water very silent—spread abroad,  
Like water very silent, from the Shrine  
Unlighted of Taman to where the stream  
Is dammed to fill our cattle-troughs—sent up

## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

White waves that rocked and heaved and then  
were still,

Till all the Valley glittered like a marsh,  
Beneath the moonlight, filled with sluggish mist  
Knee-deep, so that men waded as they walked.

That night, the Red Horse grazed above the Dam,  
Beyond the cattle-troughs. Men heard him feed,  
And those that heard him sickened where they lay.

Thus came the sickness to Er-Heb, and slew  
Ten men, strong men, and of the women four ;  
And the Red Horse went hillward with the dawn,  
But near the cattle-troughs his hoof-prints lay.

That night, the slow mists of the evening dropped,  
Dropped as a cloth upon the dead, but rose  
A little higher, to a young girl's height ;  
Till all the Valley glittered like a lake,  
Beneath the moonlight, filled with sluggish mist.

## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

That night, the Red Horse grazed beyond the  
Dam

A stone's-throw from the troughs. Men heard  
him feed,

And those that heard him sickened where they lay.

Thus came the sickness to Er-Heb, and slew

Of men a score, and of the women eight,

And of the children two.

Because the road

To Gorukh was a road of enemies,

And Ao-Safai was blocked with early snow,

We could not flee from out the Valley. Death

Smote at us in a slaughter-pen, and Kysh

Was mute as Yabosh, though the goats were  
slain ;

And the Red Horse grazed nightly by the stream,

And later, outward, towards the Unlighted  
Shrine,

And those that heard him sickened where they lay.



## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

Then said Bisesa to the Priests at dusk,  
When the white mist rose up breast-high, and  
choked

The voices in the houses of the dead :—

‘ Yabosh and Kysh avail not. If the Horse

‘ Reach the Unlighted Shrine we surely die.

‘ Ye have forgotten of all Gods the Chief,

‘ Taman !’ Here rolled the thunder through  
the Hill.

And Yabosh shook upon his pedestal.

‘ Ye have forgotten of all Gods the Chief

‘ Too long.’ And all were dumb save one, who  
cried

On Yabosh with the Sapphire ’twixt his knees,

But found no answer in the smoky roof,

And, being smitten of the sickness, died

Before the altar of the Sapphire Shrine.

Then said Bisesa :—‘ I am near to Death,

‘ And have the Wisdom of the Grave for gift

## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

‘To bear me on the path my feet must tread.  
‘If there be wealth on earth, then I am rich,  
‘For Armod is the first of all Er-Heb ;  
‘If there be beauty on the earth,’—her eyes  
Dropped for a moment to the temple floor,—  
‘Ye know that I am fair. If there be Love,  
‘Ye know that love is mine.’ The Chief in  
War,

The Man of Sixty Spears, broke from the press,  
And would have clasped her, but the Priests  
withstood,

Saying :—‘She has a message from Taman.’  
Then said Bisesa :—‘By my wealth and love  
‘And beauty, I am chosen of the God  
‘Taman.’ Here rolled the thunder through the  
Hills

And Kysh fell forward on the Mound of Skulls.

In darkness, and before our Priests, the maid  
Between the altars cast her bracelets down,

## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

Therewith the heavy earrings Armod made,  
When he was young, out of the water-gold  
Of Gorukh—threw the breast-plate thick with  
jade

Upon the turquoise anklets—put aside  
The bands of silver on her brow and neck ;  
And as the trinkets tinkled on the stones,  
The thunder of Taman lowed like a bull.

Then said Bisesa, stretching out her hands,  
As one in darkness fearing Devils :—‘ Help !

‘ O Priests, I am a woman very weak.

‘ And who am I to know the will of Gods ?

‘ Taman hath called me—whither shall I go ? ’

The Chief in War, the Man of Sixty Spears,  
Howled in his torment, fettered by the Priests,  
But dared not come to her to drag her forth,  
And dared not lift his spear against the  
Priests.

Then all men wept.

## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

There was a Priest of Kysh  
Bent with a hundred winters, hairless, blind,  
And taloned as the great Snow-Eagle is.  
His seat was nearest to the altar-fires,  
And he was counted dumb among the Priests.  
But, whether Kysh decreed, or from Taman  
The impotent tongue found utterance we know  
As little as the bats beneath the eaves.  
He cried so that they heard who stood without :—  
' To the Unlighted Shrine ! ' and crept aside  
Into the shadow of his fallen God  
And whimpered, and Bisesa went her way.

That night, the slow mists of the evening dropped,  
Dropped as a cloth upon the dead, and rose  
Above the roofs, and by the Unlighted Shrine  
Lay as the slimy water of the troughs  
When murrain thins the cattle of Er-Heb :  
And through the mist men heard the Red Horse  
feed.

## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

In Armod's house they burned Bisesa's dower,  
And killed her black bull Tor, and broke her  
wheel,

And loosed her hair, as for the marriage-feast,  
With cries more loud than mourning for the dead.

Across the fields, from Armod's dwelling-place,  
We heard Bisesa weeping where she passed  
To seek the Unlighted Shrine; the Red Horse  
neighed

And followed her, and on the river-mint  
His hooves struck dead and heavy in our ears.

Out of the mists of evening, as the star  
Of Ao-Safai climbs through the black snow-blur  
To show the Pass is clear, Bisesa stepped  
Upon the great grey slope of mortised stone,  
The Causeway of Taman. The Red Horse  
neighed

Behind her to the Unlighted Shrine—then fled



## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

North to the Mountain where his stable lies.  
They know who dared the anger of Taman,  
And watched that night above the clinging mists,  
Far up the hill, Bisesa's passing in.

She set her hand upon the carven door,  
Fouled by a myriad bats, and black with time,  
Whereon is graved the Glory of Taman  
In letters older than the Ao-Safai ;  
And twice she turned aside and twice she wept,  
Cast down upon the threshold, clamouring  
For him she loved—the Man of Sixty Spears,  
And for her father,—and the black bull Tor,  
Hers and her pride. Yea, twice she turned away  
Before the awful darkness of the door,  
And the great horror of the Wall of Man  
Where Man is made the plaything of Taman,  
An Eyeless Face that waits above and laughs.

But the third time she cried and put her palms

## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

Against the hewn stone leaves, and prayed  
Taman

To spare Er-Heb and take her life for price.

They know who watched, the doors were rent  
apart

And closed upon Bisesa, and the rain  
Broke like a flood across the Valley, washed  
The mist away ; but louder than the rain  
The thunder of Taman filled men with fear.

Some say that from the Unlighted Shrine she  
cried

For succour, very pitifully, thrice,  
And others that she sang and had no fear.  
And some that there was neither song nor cry,  
But only thunder and the lashing rain.

Howbeit, in the morning men rose up,  
Perplexed with horror, crowding to the Shrine,



## THE SACRIFICE OF ER-HEB

And when Er-Heb was gathered at the doors  
The Priests made lamentation and passed in  
To a strange Temple and a God they feared  
But knew not.

From the crevices the grass  
Had thrust the altar-slabs apart, the walls  
Were grey with stains unclean, the roof-beams  
swelled  
With many-coloured growth of rottenness,  
And lichen veiled the Image of Taman  
In leprosy. The Basin of the Blood  
Above the altar held the morning sun :  
A winking ruby on its heart : below,  
Face hid in hands, the maid Bisesa lay.

*Er-Heb beyond the Hills of Ao-Safai  
Bears witness to the truth, and Ao-Safai  
Hath told the men of Gorukh. Thence the tale  
Comes westward o'er the peaks to India.*

## THE EXPLANATION

LOVE and Death once ceased their strife  
At the Tavern of Man's Life.

Called for wine, and threw—alas !—

Each his quiver on the grass.

When the bout was o'er they found

Mingled arrows strewed the ground.

Hastily they gathered then

Each the loves and lives of men.

Ah, the fateful dawn deceived !

Mingled arrows each one sheaved ;

Death's dread armoury was stored

With the shafts he most abhorred ;

Love's light quiver groaned beneath

Venom-headed darts of Death.

## THE EXPLANATION

Thus it was they wrought our woe  
At the Tavern long ago.  
Tell me, do our masters know,  
Loosing blindly as they fly,  
Old men love while young men die ?

## THE GIFT OF THE SEA

THE dead child lay in the shroud,  
And the widow watched beside ;  
And her mother slept, and the Channel swept  
The gale in the teeth of the tide.

But the mother laughed at all.

‘ I have lost my man in the sea,  
‘ And the child is dead. Be still,’ she said,  
‘ What more can ye do to me ? ’

The widow watched the dead,  
And the candle guttered low,  
And she tried to sing the Passing Song  
That bids the poor soul go.

## THE GIFT OF THE SEA

And ' Mary take you now,' she sang,

    ' That lay against my heart.'

And ' Mary smooth your crib to-night,'

    But she could not say ' Depart.'

Then came a cry from the sea,

    But the sea-rime blinded the glass,

And ' Heard ye nothing, mother ? ' she said,

    ' 'Tis the child that waits to pass.'

And the nodding mother sighed.

    ' 'Tis a lambing ewe in the whin,

    ' For why should the christened soul cry out

        ' That never knew of sin ? '

    ' O feet I have held in my hand,

        ' O hands at my heart to catch,

    ' How should they know the road to go,

        ' And how should they lift the latch ? '

## THE GIFT OF THE SEA

They laid a sheet to the door,  
With the little quilt atop,  
That it might not hurt from the cold or the dirt,  
But the crying would not stop.

The widow lifted the latch  
And strained her eyes to see,  
And opened the door on the bitter shore  
To let the soul go free.

There was neither glimmer nor ghost,  
There was neither spirit nor spark,  
And 'Heard ye nothing, mother?' she said,  
' 'Tis crying for me in the dark.'

And the nodding mother sighed :  
' 'Tis sorrow makes ye dull ;  
' Have ye yet to learn the cry of the tern,  
' Or the wail of the wind-blown gull ? '

## THE GIFT OF THE SEA

‘ The terns are blown inland,  
‘ The grey gull follows the plough.  
‘ ’Twas never a bird, the voice I heard,  
‘ O mother, I hear it now ! ’

‘ Lie still, dear lamb, lie still ;  
‘ The child is passed from harm,  
‘ ’Tis the ache in your breast that broke your  
rest  
‘ And the feel of an empty arm.’

She put her mother aside,  
‘ In Mary’s name let be !  
‘ For the peace of my soul I must go,’ she said,  
And she went to the calling sea.

In the heel of the wind-bit pier,  
Where the twisted weed was piled,  
She came to the life she had missed by an hour,  
For she came to a little child.



## THE GIFT OF THE SEA

She laid it into her breast,  
And back to her mother she came,  
But it would not feed and it would not heed,  
Though she gave it her own child's name.

And the dead child dripped on her breast,  
And her own in the shroud lay stark ;  
And ' God forgive us, mother,' she said,  
' We let it die in the dark !'

## EVARRA AND HIS GODS

*READ here :*

*This is the story of Evarra—man—  
Maker of Gods in lands beyond the sea.*

Because the city gave him of her gold,  
Because the caravans brought turquoises,  
Because his life was sheltered by the King,  
So that no man should maim him, none should  
steal,

Or break his rest with babble in the streets  
When he was weary after toil, he made  
An image of his God in gold and pearl,  
With turquoise diadem and human eyes,  
A wonder in the sunshine, known afar,  
And worshipped by the King; but, drunk  
with pride,

Because the city bowed to him for God,

## EVARRA AND HIS GODS

He wrote above the shrine: '*Thus Gods are made,*  
' *And whoso makes them otherwise shall die.*'

And all the city praised him. . . . Then he died.

*Read here the story of Evarra—man—*

*Maker of Gods in lands beyond the sea.*

Because the city had no wealth to give,  
Because the caravans were spoiled afar,  
Because his life was threatened by the King,  
So that all men despised him in the streets,  
He hewed the living rock, with sweat and tears,  
And reared a God against the morning-gold,  
A terror in the sunshine, seen afar,  
And worshipped by the King; but, drunk  
with pride,

Because the city fawned to bring him back,  
He carved upon the plinth: '*Thus Gods are made,*  
' *And whoso makes them otherwise shall die.*'

And all the people praised him. . . . Then he  
died,

## EVARRA AND HIS GODS

*Read here the story of Evarra—man—*

*Maker of Gods in lands beyond the sea.*

Because he lived among a simple folk,  
Because his village was between the hills,  
Because he smeared his cheeks with blood of  
ewes,

He cut an idol from a fallen pine,  
Smeared blood upon its cheeks, and wedged a  
shell

Above its brows for eyes, and gave it hair  
Of trailing moss, and plaited straw for crown.  
And all the village praised him for this craft,  
And brought him butter, honey, milk, and  
curds.

Wherefore, because the shoutings drove him  
mad,

He scratched upon that log: '*Thus Gods are  
made,*

*'And whoso makes them otherwise shall die.'*

And all the people praised him. . . . Then he died.

## EVARRA AND HIS GODS

*Read here the story of Evarra—man—  
Maker of Gods in lands beyond the sea.*

Because his God decreed one clot of blood  
Should swerve one hair's-breadth from the  
pulse's path,

And chafe his brain, Evarra mowed alone,  
Rag-wrapped, among the cattle in the fields,  
Counting his fingers, jesting with the trees,  
And mocking at the mist, until his God  
Drove him to labour. Out of dung and horns  
Dropped in the mire he made a monstrous God,  
Abhorrent, shapeless, crowned with plantain  
tufts,

And when the cattle lowed at twilight-time,  
He dreamed it was the clamour of lost crowds,  
And howled among the beasts: '*Thus Gods are  
made,*

*'And whoso makes them otherwise shall die.'*

Thereat the cattle bellowed. . . . Then he  
died.

## EVARRA AND HIS GODS

Yet at the last he came to Paradise,  
And found his own four Gods, and that he  
wrote ;

And marvelled, being very near to God,  
What oaf on earth had made his toil God's law,  
Till God said mocking : ' Mock not. These be  
thine.'

Then cried Evarra : ' I have sinned!'—'Not so.  
' If thou hadst written otherwise, thy Gods  
' Had rested in the mountain and the mine,  
' And I were poorer by four wondrous Gods,  
' And thy more wondrous law, Evarra. Thine,  
' Servant of shouting crowds and lowing kine.'

Thereat, with laughing mouth, but tear-wet  
eyes,

Evarra cast his Gods from Paradise.

*This is the story of Evarra—man—  
Maker of Gods in lands beyond the sea.*

## THE CONUNDRUM OF THE WORKSHOPS

**W**HEN the flush of a new-born sun fell first  
on Eden's green and gold,  
Our father Adam sat under the Tree and scratched  
with a stick in the mould ;  
And the first rude sketch that the world had seen  
was joy to his mighty heart,  
Till the Devil whispered behind the leaves, ' It 's  
pretty, but is it Art ? '

Wherefore he called to his wife, and fled to  
fashion his work anew—  
The first of his race who cared a fig for the first,  
most dread review ;  
And he left his lore to the use of his sons—and  
that was a glorious gain  
When the Devil chuckled ' Is it Art ? ' in the ear  
of the branded Cain.

## THE CONUNDRUM OF

They builded a tower to shiver the sky and  
wrench the stars apart,  
Till the Devil grunted behind the bricks : ' It 's  
striking, but is it Art ? '  
The stone was dropped at the quarry-side and  
the idle derrick swung,  
While each man talked of the aims of Art, and  
each in an alien tongue.

They fought and they talked in the North and the  
South, they talked and they fought in the West,  
Till the waters rose on the pitiful land, and the  
poor Red Clay had rest—  
Had rest till the dank blank-canvas dawn when  
the dove was preened to start,  
And the Devil bubbled below the keel : ' It 's  
human, but is it Art ? '

The tale is as old as the Eden Tree—and new as  
the new-cut tooth—



## THE WORKSHOPS

For each man knows ere his lip-thatch grows  
he is master of Art and Truth ;  
And each man hears as the twilight nears, to the  
beat of his dying heart,  
The Devil drum on the darkened pane : ‘ You  
did it, but was it Art ? ’

We have learned to whittle the Eden Tree to the  
shape of a surplice-peg,  
We have learned to bottle our parents twain in  
the yelk of an addled egg,  
We know that the tail must wag the dog, for the  
horse is drawn by the cart ;  
But the Devil whoops, as he whooped of old  
‘ It ’s clever, but is it Art ? ’

When the flicker of London sun falls faint on the  
Club-room’s green and gold,  
The sons of Adam sit them down and scratch  
with their pens in the mould—

## THE CONUNDRUM

They scratch with their pens in the mould of their  
    graves, and the ink and the anguish start,  
For the Devil mutters behind the leaves : ‘ It ’s  
    pretty, but is it Art ? ’

Now, if we could win to the Eden Tree where the  
    Four Great Rivers flow,  
And the Wreath of Eve is red on the turf as she  
    left it long ago,  
And if we could come when the sentry slept and  
    softly scurry through,  
By the favour of God we might know as much—  
    as our father Adam knew.

## THE LEGEND OF EVIL

### I

THIS is the sorrowful story  
Told when the twilight fails  
And the monkeys walk together  
Holding each other's tails :—

‘ Our fathers lived in the forest,  
‘ Foolish people were they,  
‘ They went down to the cornland  
‘ To teach the farmers to play.

‘ Our fathers frisked in the millet,  
‘ Our fathers skipped in the wheat,  
‘ Our fathers hung from the branches,  
‘ Our fathers danced in the street.

## THE LEGEND OF EVIL

- ‘ Then came the terrible farmers,
  - ‘ Nothing of play they knew,
- ‘ Only . . . they caught our fathers
  - ‘ And set them to labour too !
  
- ‘ Set them to work in the cornland
  - ‘ With ploughs and sickles and flails,
- ‘ Put them in mud-walled prisons
  - ‘ And—cut off their beautiful tails !
  
- ‘ Now, we can watch our fathers,
  - ‘ Sullen and bowed and old,
- ‘ Stooping over the millet,
  - ‘ Sharing the silly mould,
  
- ‘ Driving a foolish furrow,
  - ‘ Mending a muddy yoke,
- ‘ Sleeping in mud-walled prisons,
  - ‘ Steeping their food in smoke.

## THE LEGEND OF EVIL

'We may not speak to our fathers,  
' For if the farmers knew  
' They would come up to the forest  
' And set us to labour too.'

This is the horrible story  
Told as the twilight fails  
And the monkeys walk together  
Holding each other's tails.

## II

'T WAS when the rain fell steady an' the Ark  
was pitched an' ready,  
That Noah got his orders for to take the bastes  
below ;  
He dragged them all together by the horn an'  
hide an' feather,  
An' all excipt the Donkey was agreeable to go.



## THE LEGEND OF EVIL

Thin Noah spoke him fairly, thin talked to him  
severely,

An' thin he cursed him squarely to the glory  
av the Lord :—

‘Divil take the ass that bred you, and the greater  
ass that fed you—

‘Divil go wid you, ye spalpeen!’ an’ the  
Donkey went aboard.

But the wind was always failin’, an’ ’twas most  
onaisy sailin’,

An’ the ladies in the cabin couldn’t stand the  
stable air ;

An’ the bastes betwuxt the hatches, they tuk an’  
died in batches,

Till Noah said :—‘ There ’s wan av us that  
hasn’t paid his fare ! ’

For he heard a flusteration wid the bastes av all  
creation—

## THE LEGEND OF EVIL

The trumpetin' av elephints an' bellowin' av  
whales ;

An' he saw forninst the windy whin he wint to  
stop the shindy

The Divil wid a stable-fork bedivillin' their  
tails.

The Divil cursed outrageous, but Noah said un-  
brageous :—

‘ To what am I indebted for this tenant-right  
invasion ? ’

An' the Divil gave for answer :—‘ Evict me if  
you can, sir,

‘ For I came in wid the Donkey—on Your  
Honour's invitation.’

## THE ENGLISH FLAG

*Above the portico a flag-staff, bearing the Union Jack, remained fluttering in the flames for some time, but ultimately when it fell the crowds rent the air with shouts, and seemed to see significance in the incident.*

DAILY PAPERS.

WINDS of the World, give answer ! They  
are whimpering to and fro—

And what should they know of England who  
only England know ?—

The poor little street-bred people that vapour  
and fume and brag,

They are lifting their heads in the stillness to yelp  
at the English Flag !

Must we borrow a clout from the Boer—to  
plaster anew with dirt ?



## THE ENGLISH FLAG

An Irish liar's bandage, or an English coward's  
shirt ?

We may not speak of England ; her Flag's to  
sell or share.

What is the Flag of England ? Winds of the  
World, declare !

The North Wind blew :—‘ From Bergen my  
steel-shod vanguards go ;

‘ I chase your lazy whalers home from the Disko  
floe ;

‘ By the great North Lights above me I work  
the will of God,

‘ And the liner splits on the ice-field or the  
Dogger fills with cod.

‘ I barred my gates with iron, I shuttered my  
doors with flame,

‘ Because to force my ramparts your nutshell  
navies came ;

## THE ENGLISH FLAG

‘ I took the sun from their presence, I cut them  
down with my blast,

‘ And they died, but the Flag of England blew  
free ere the spirit passed.

‘ The lean white bear hath seen it in the long,  
long Arctic night,

‘ The musk-ox knows the standard that flouts  
the Northern Light :

‘ What is the Flag of England ? Ye have but  
my bergs to dare,

‘ Ye have but my drifts to conquer. Go forth,  
for it is there ! ’

The South Wind sighed :—‘ From the Virgins  
my mid-sea course was ta’en

‘ Over a thousand islands lost in an idle main,

‘ Where the sea-egg flames on the coral and the  
long-backed breakers croon

‘ Their endless ocean legends to the lazy, locked  
lagoon.

## THE ENGLISH FLAG

- ‘ Strayed amid lonely islets, mazed amid outer  
keys,
- ‘ I waked the palms to laughter—I tossed the  
scud in the breeze—
- ‘ Never was isle so little, never was sea so lone,
- ‘ But over the scud and the palm-trees an Eng-  
lish flag was flown.
- ‘ I have wrenched it free from the halliard to  
hang for a wisp on the Horn ;
- ‘ I have chased it north to the Lizard—ribboned  
and rolled and torn ;
- ‘ I have spread its fold o’er the dying, adrift in a  
hopeless sea ;
- ‘ I have hurled it swift on the slaver, and seen the  
slave set free.
- ‘ My basking sunfish know it, and wheeling  
albatross,
- ‘ Where the lone wave fills with fire beneath the  
Southern Cross.

## THE ENGLISH FLAG

‘What is the flag of England ? Ye have but my  
reefs to dare,

‘Ye have but my seas to furrow. Go forth, for  
it is there !’

The East Wind roared :—‘From the Kuriles,  
the Bitter Seas, I come,

‘And me men call the Home-Wind, for I bring  
the English home.

‘Look—look well to your shipping ! By the  
breath of my mad typhoon

‘I swept your close-packed Praya and beached  
your best at Kowloon !

‘The reeling junks behind me and the racing  
seas before,

‘I raped your richest roadstead—I plundered  
Singapore !

‘I set my hand on the Hoogli ; as a hooded snake  
she rose,

## THE ENGLISH FLAG

‘ And I flung your stoutest steamers to roost  
with the startled crows.

‘ Never the lotos closes, never the wild-fowl wake,  
‘ But a soul goes out on the East Wind that died  
for England’s sake—

‘ Man or woman or suckling, mother or bride or  
maid—

‘ Because on the bones of the English the English  
Flag is stayed.

‘ The desert-dust hath dimmed it, the flying  
wild-ass knows,

‘ The scared white leopard winds it across the  
taintless snows.

‘ What is the flag of England ? Ye have but my  
sun to dare,

‘ Ye have but my sands to travel. Go forth, for  
it is there !’

## THE ENGLISH FLAG

The West Wind called :—‘ In squadrons the  
thoughtless galleons fly

‘ That bear the wheat and cattle lest street-bred  
people die.

‘ They make my might their porter, they make  
my house their path,

‘ Till I loose my neck from their rudder and  
whelm them all in my wrath.

‘ I draw the gliding fog-bank as a snake is drawn  
from the hole,

‘ They bellow one to the other, the frightened ship-  
bells toll,

‘ For day is a drifting terror till I raise the shroud  
with my breath,

‘ And they see strange bows above them and the  
two go locked to death.

‘ But whether in calm or wrack-wreath, whether  
by dark or day,

## THE ENGLISH FLAG

- ‘ I heave them whole to the conger or rip their  
plates away,  
‘ First of the scattered legions, under a shrieking  
sky,  
‘ Dipping between the rollers, the English Flag  
goes by.
- ‘ The dead dumb fog hath wrapped it—the  
frozen dews have kissed—  
‘ The naked stars have seen it, a fellow-star in  
the mist.  
‘ What is the Flag of England ? Ye have but  
my breath to dare,  
‘ Ye have but my waves to conquer. Go forth,  
for it is there ! ’



## ‘CLEARED’

(IN MEMORY OF A COMMISSION)

**H**ELP for a patriot distressed, a spotless  
spirit hurt,

Help for an honourable clan sore trampled in the  
dirt !

From Queenstown Bay to Donegal, O listen to  
my song,

The honourable gentlemen have suffered grievous  
wrong.

Their noble names were mentioned—O the burn-  
ing black disgrace !—

By a brutal Saxon paper in an Irish shooting-  
case ;



‘ CLEARED ’

They sat upon it for a year, then steeled their  
heart to brave it,  
And ‘ coruscating innocence ’ the learned Judges  
gave it.

Bear witness, Heaven, of that grim crime beneath  
the surgeon’s knife,  
The honourable gentlemen deplored the loss of  
life !  
Bear witness of those chanting choirs that burk  
and shirk and snigger,  
No man laid hand upon the knife or finger to the  
trigger !

Cleared in the face of all mankind beneath the  
winking skies,  
Like phoenixes from Phoenix Park (and what lay  
there) they rise !

‘ CLEARED ’

Go shout it to the emerald seas—give word to  
Erin now,  
Her honourable gentlemen are cleared—and this  
is how :—

They only paid the Moonlighter his cattle-hock-  
ing price,  
They only helped the murderer with counsel’s  
best advice,  
But—sure it keeps their honour white—the  
learned Court believes  
They never give a piece of plate to murderers and  
thieves.

They never told the ramping crowd to card a  
woman’s hide,  
They never marked a man for death—what  
fault of theirs he died ?—

‘ CLEARED ’

They only said ‘intimidate,’ and talked and  
went away—

By God, the boys that did the work were braver  
men than they !

Their sin it was that fed the fire—small blame to  
them that heard—

The ‘ bhoys ’ get drunk on rhetoric, and madden  
at a word—

They knew whom they were talking at, if they  
were Irish too,

The gentlemen that lied in Court, they knew, and  
well they knew.

They only took the Judas-gold from Fenians out  
of jail,

They only fawned for dollars on the blood-dyed  
Clan-na-Gael.

‘ CLEARED ’

If black is black or white is white, in black and  
white it ’s down,  
They ’re only traitors to the Queen and rebels to  
the Crown.

‘ Cleared,’ honourable gentlemen ! Be thankful  
it ’s no more :——

The widow’s curse is on your house, the dead are  
at your door.

On you the shame of open shame, on you from  
North to South

The hand of every honest man flat-heeled across  
your mouth.

‘ Less black than we were painted ’ ?—Faith, no  
word of black was said ;

The lightest touch was human blood, and that,  
you know, runs red.

‘ CLEARED ’

It’s sticking to your fist to-day for all your  
sneer and scoff,  
And by the Judge’s well-weighed word you  
cannot wipe it off.

Hold up those hands of innocence—go, scare  
your sheep together,  
The blundering, tripping tups that bleat behind  
the old bell-wether ;  
And if they snuff the taint and break to find  
another pen,  
Tell them it’s tar that glistens so, and daub them  
yours again !

‘ The charge is old ’ ?—As old as Cain—as fresh  
as yesterday ;  
Old as the Ten Commandments—have ye talked  
those laws away ?

‘ CLEARED ’

If words are words, or death is death, or powder  
sends the ball,  
You spoke the words that sped the shot—the  
curse be on you all.

‘ Our friends believe ’ ? Of course they do—as  
sheltered women may ;  
But have they seen the shrieking soul ripped  
from the quivering clay ?  
They !—If their own front door is shut, they ’ll  
swear the whole world ’s warm ;  
What do they know of dread of death or hanging  
fear of harm ?

The secret half a county keeps, the whisper in  
the lane,  
The shriek that tells the shot went home behind  
the broken pane,

‘ CLEARED ’

The dry blood crisping in the sun that scares the  
honest bees,

And shows the ‘ bhoys ’ have heard your talk—  
what do they know of these ?

But you—you know—ay, ten times more ; the  
secrets of the dead,

Black terror on the country-side by word and  
whisper bred,

The mangled stallion’s scream at night, the tail-  
cropped heifer’s low.

Who set the whisper going first ? You know,  
and well you know !

My soul ! I’d sooner lie in jail for murder plain  
and straight,

Pure crime I’d done with my own hand for  
money, lust, or hate,

## ‘ CLEARED ’

Than take a seat in Parliament by fellow-felons  
cheered,

While one of those ‘ not provens ’ proved me  
cleared as you are cleared.

Cleared—you that ‘ lost ’ the League accounts—  
go, guard our honour still,

Go, help to make our country’s laws that broke  
God’s law at will—

One hand stuck out behind the back, to signal  
‘ strike again ’ ;

The other on your dress-shirt-front to show your  
heart is clane.

If black is black or white is white, in black and  
white it ’s down,

You ’re only traitors to the Queen and rebels to  
the Crown.



‘ CLEARED ’

If print is print or words are words, the learned

Court perpend :—

We are not ruled by murderers, but only—by  
their friends.

## AN IMPERIAL RESCRIPT

**N**OW this is the tale of the Council the German  
Kaiser decreed,  
To ease the strong of their burden, to help the  
weak in their need,  
He sent a word to the peoples, who struggle, and  
pant, and sweat,  
That the straw might be counted fairly and the  
tally of bricks be set.

The Lords of Their Hands assembled ; from the  
East and the West they drew—  
Baltimore, Lille, and Essen, Brummagem, Clyde,  
and Crewe.

## AN IMPERIAL RESCRIPT

And some were black from the furnace, and some  
were brown from the soil,  
And some were blue from the dye-vat; but all  
were wearied of toil.

And the young King said :—‘ I have found it,  
the road to the rest ye seek :  
‘ The strong shall wait for the weary, the hale  
shall halt for the weak ;  
‘ With the even tramp of an army where no man  
breaks from the line,  
‘ Ye shall march to peace and plenty in the bond  
of brotherhood—sign ! ’

The paper lay on the table, the strong heads  
bowed thereby,  
And a wail went up from the peoples :—‘ Ay,  
sign—give rest, for we die ! ’

## AN IMPERIAL RESCRIPT

A hand was stretched to the goose-quill, a fist  
was cramped to scrawl,  
When—the laugh of a blue-eyed maiden ran clear  
through the council-hall.

And each one heard Her laughing as each one  
saw Her plain—  
Saidie, Mimi, or Olga, Gretchen, or Mary Jane.  
And the Spirit of Man that is in Him to the light  
of the vision woke ;  
And the men drew back from the paper, as a  
Yankee delegate spoke :—

‘ There ’s a girl in Jersey City who works on the  
telephone ;  
‘ We ’re going to hitch our horses and dig for a  
house of our own,  
‘ With gas and water connections, and steam  
heat through to the top ;

## AN IMPERIAL RESCRIPT

‘ And, W. Hohenzollern, I guess I shall work till  
I drop.’

And an English delegate thundered :—‘ The  
weak an’ the lame be blowed !

‘ I’ve a berth in the Sou’-West workshops, a  
home in the Wandsworth Road ;

‘ And till the ’sociation has footed my buryin’ bill,

‘ I work for the kids an’ the missus. Pull up !  
I’ll be damned if I will !’

And over the German benches the bearded  
whisper ran :—

‘ Lager, der girls und der dollars, dey makes or  
dey breaks a man.

‘ If Schmitt haf collared der dollars, he collars  
der girl deremit ;

‘ But if Schmitt bust in der pizness, we collars  
der girl from Schmitt.’

## AN IMPERIAL RESCRIPT

They passed one resolution :—‘ Your sub-committee believe

‘ You can lighten the curse of Adam when you ’ve lightened the curse of Eve.

‘ But till we are built like angels, with hammer and chisel and pen,

‘ We will work for ourself and a woman, for ever and ever, amen.’

Now this is the tale of the Council the German Kaiser held—

The day that they razored the Grindstone, the day that the Cat was belled,

The day of the Figs from Thistles, the day of the Twisted Sands,

The day that the laugh of a maiden made light of the Lords of Their Hands.

## TOMLINSON

NOW Tomlinson gave up the ghost in his  
house in Berkeley Square,

And a Spirit came to his bedside and gripped him  
by the hair—

A Spirit gripped him by the hair and carried him  
far away,

Till he heard as the roar of a rain-fed ford the  
roar of the Milky Way :

Till he heard the roar of the Milky Way die down  
and drone and cease,

And they came to the Gate within the Wall  
where Peter holds the keys.

‘Stand up, stand up now, Tomlinson, and answer  
loud and high

## TOMLINSON

‘The good that ye did for the sake of men or  
ever ye came to die—

‘The good that ye did for the sake of men in  
little earth so lone !’

And the naked soul of Tomlinson grew white as  
a rain-washed bone.

‘O I have a friend on earth,’ he said, ‘that was  
my priest and guide,

‘And well would he answer all for me if he were  
by my side.’

—‘For that ye strove in neighbour-love it shall  
be written fair,

‘But now ye wait at Heaven’s Gate and not in  
Berkeley Square :

‘Though we called your friend from his bed this  
night, he could not speak for you,

‘For the race is run by one and one and never  
by two and two.’

Then Tomlinson looked up and down, and little  
gain was there,



## TOMLINSON

For the naked stars grinned overhead, and he  
saw that his soul was bare :

The Wind that blows between the worlds, it cut  
him like a knife,

And Tomlinson took up his tale and spoke of his  
good in life.

‘ This I have read in a book,’ he said, ‘ and that  
was told to me,

‘ And this I have thought that another man  
thought of a Prince in Muscovy.’

The good souls flocked like homing doves and  
bade him clear the path,

And Peter twirled the jangling keys in weariness  
and wrath.

‘ Ye have read, ye have heard, ye have thought,’  
he said, ‘ and the tale is yet to run :

‘ By the worth of the body that once ye had,  
give answer—what ha’ ye done ? ’

Then Tomlinson looked back and forth, and  
little good it bore,

## TOMLINSON

For the Darkness stayed at his shoulder-blade  
and Heaven's Gate before :—

‘ O this I have felt, and this I have guessed, and  
this I have heard men say,

‘ And this they wrote that another man wrote of  
a carl in Norroway.’

‘ Ye have read, ye have felt, ye have guessed, good  
lack ! Ye have hampered Heaven's Gate ;

‘ There 's little room between the stars in idleness  
to prate !

‘ O none may reach by hired speech of neighbour,  
priest, and kin

‘ Through borrowed deed to God's good meed  
that lies so fair within ;

‘ Get hence, get hence to the Lord of Wrong, for  
doom has yet to run,

‘ And . . . the faith that ye share with Berkeley  
Square uphold you, Tomlinson ! ’

. . . . .

## TOMLINSON

The Spirit gripped him by the hair, and sun by  
sun they fell

Till they came to the belt of Naughty Stars that  
rim the mouth of Hell :

The first are red with pride and wrath, the next  
are white with pain,

But the third are black with clinkered sin that  
cannot burn again :

They may hold their path, they may leave their  
path, with never a soul to mark,

They may burn or freeze, but they must not  
cease in the Scorn of the Outer Dark.

The Wind that blows between the worlds, it  
nipped him to the bone,

And he yearned to the flare of Hell-Gate there as  
the light of his own hearth-stone.

The Devil he sat behind the bars, where the des-  
perate legions drew,

But he caught the hasting Tomlinson and would  
not let him through.



## TOMLINSON

‘ Wot ye the price of good pit-coal that I must  
pay ? ’ said he,

‘ That ye rank yoursel’ so fit for Hell and ask no  
leave of me ?

‘ I am all o’er-sib to Adam’s breed that ye should  
give me scorn,

‘ For I strove with God for your First Father the  
day that he was born.

‘ Sit down, sit down upon the slag, and answer  
loud and high

‘ The harm that ye did to the Sons of Men or  
ever you came to die.’

And Tomlinson looked up and up, and saw  
against the night

The belly of a tortured star blood-red in Hell-  
Mouth light ;

And Tomlinson looked down and down, and saw  
beneath his feet

The frontlet of a tortured star milk-white in  
Hell-Mouth heat.

TOMLINSON

‘ O I had a love on earth,’ said he, ‘ that kissed  
me to my fall,

‘ And if ye would call my love to me I know she  
would answer all.’

—‘ All that ye did in love forbid it shall be  
written fair,

‘ But now ye wait at Hell-Mouth Gate and not  
in Berkeley Square :

‘ Though we whistled your love from her bed to-  
night, I trow she would not run,

‘ For the sin ye do by two and two ye must pay  
for one by one ! ’

The Wind that blows between the worlds, it cut  
him like a knife,

And Tomlinson took up the tale and spoke of his  
sin in life :—

‘ Once I ha’ laughed at the power of Love and  
twice at the grip of the Grave,

‘ And thrice I ha’ patted my God on the head  
that men might call me brave.’

## TOMLINSON

The Devil he blew on a brandered soul and set it  
aside to cool :—

‘ Do ye think I would waste my good pit-coal on  
the hide of a brain-sick fool ?

‘ I see no worth in the hobnailed mirth or the  
jolt-head jest ye did

‘ That I should waken my gentlemen that are  
sleeping three on a grid.’

Then Tomlinson looked back and forth, and  
there was little grace,

For Hell-Gate filled the houseless Soul with the  
Fear of Naked Space.

‘ Nay, this I ha’ heard,’ quo’ Tomlinson, ‘ and  
this was noised abroad,

‘ And this I ha’ got from a Belgian book on the  
word of a dead French lord.’

—‘ Ye ha’ heard, ye ha’ read, ye ha’ got, good  
lack ! and the tale begins afresh—

‘ Have ye sinned one sin for the pride o’ the eye  
or the sinful lust of the flesh ? ’

## TOMLINSON

Then Tomlinson he gripped the bars and yammered, 'Let me in—

'For I mind that I borrowed my neighbour's wife to sin the deadly sin.'

The Devil he grinned behind the bars, and banked the fires high :

'Did ye read of that sin in a book?' said he ; and Tomlinson said, 'Ay !'

The Devil he blew upon his nails, and the little devils ran,

And he said : 'Go husk this whimpering thief that comes in the guise of a man :

'Winnow him out 'twixt star and star, and sieve his proper worth :

'There 's sore decline in Adam's line if this be spawn of earth.'

Empusa's crew, so naked-new they may not face the fire,

But weep that they bin too small to sin to the height of their desire,

## TOMLINSON

Over the coal they chased the Soul, and racked  
it all abroad,

As children rifle a caddis-case or the raven's  
foolish hoard.

And back they came with the tattered Thing, as  
children after play,

And they said : ' The soul that he got from God  
he has bartered clean away.

' We have threshed a stook of print and book,  
and winnowed a chattering wind

' And many a soul wherefrom he stole, but his  
we cannot find :

' We have handled him, we have dandled him,  
we have seared him to the bone,

' And sure if tooth and nail show truth he has  
no soul of his own.'

The Devil he bowed his head on his breast and  
rumbled deep and low :—

' I'm all o'er-sib to Adam's breed that I should  
bid him go.



## TOMLINSON

‘ Yet close we lie, and deep we lie, and if I gave  
him place,

‘ My gentlemen that are so proud would flout  
me to my face ;

‘ They ’d call my house a common stews and me  
a careless host,

‘ And—I would not anger my gentlemen for the  
sake of a shiftless ghost.’

The Devil he looked at the mangled Soul that  
prayed to feel the flame,

And he thought of Holy Charity, but he thought  
of his own good name :—

‘ Now ye could haste my coal to waste, and sit  
ye down to fry :

‘ Did ye think of that theft for yourself ? ’ said  
he ; and Tomlinson said, ‘ Ay ! ’

The Devil he blew an outward breath, for his  
heart was free from care :—

‘ Ye have scarce the soul of a louse,’ he said, ‘ but  
the roots of sin are there,

TOMLINSON

- ‘ And for that sin should ye come in were I the  
lord alone.
- ‘ But sinful pride has rule inside—and mightier  
than my own.
- ‘ Honour and Wit, fore-damned they sit, to each  
his priest and whore :
- ‘ Nay, scarce I dare myself go there, and you  
they ’d torture sore.
- ‘ Ye are neither spirit nor spirk,’ he said ; ‘ ye  
are neither book nor brute—
- ‘ Go, get ye back to the flesh again for the sake  
of Man’s repute.
- ‘ I ’m all o’er-sib to Adam’s breed that I should  
mock your pain,
- ‘ But look that ye win to worthier sin ere ye come  
back again.
- ‘ Get hence, the hearse is at your door—the grim  
black stallions wait—
- ‘ They bear your clay to place to-day. Speed,  
lest ye come too late !

## TOMLINSON

- ‘ Go back to Earth with a lip unsealed—go back  
with an open eye,  
‘ And carry my word to the Sons of Men or ever  
ye come to die :  
‘ That the sin they do by two and two they must  
pay for one by one—  
‘ And . . . the God that you took from a printed  
book be with you, Tomlinson ! ’



## L'ENVOI

THERE 'S a whisper down the field where the  
year has shot her yield,

And the ricks stand grey to the sun,

Singing :—‘ Over then, come over, for the bee  
has quit the clover,

‘ And your English summer 's done.’

You have heard the beat of the off-shore  
wind,

And the thresh of the deep-sea rain ;

You have heard the song—how long !  
how long ?

Pull out on the trail again !

Ha' done with the Tents of Shem, dear lass,  
We 've seen the seasons through,

## L'ENVOI

And it's time to turn on the old trail, our  
own trail, the out trail,  
Pull out, pull out, on the Long Trail—the  
trail that is always new.

It's North you may run to the rime-ringed sun  
Or South to the blind Horn's hate ;  
Or East all the way into Mississippi Bay,  
Or West to the Golden Gate ;  
Where the blindest bluffs hold good, dear  
lass,  
And the wildest tales are true,  
And the men bulk big on the old trail, our  
own trail, the out trail,  
And life runs large on the Long Trail—the  
trail that is always new.

The days are sick and cold, and the skies are grey  
and old,  
And the twice-breathed airs blow damp ;

## L'ENVOI

And I 'd sell my tired soul for the bucking beam-  
sea roll

Of a black Bilbao tramp ;

With her load-line over her hatch, dear  
lass,

And a drunken Dago crew,

And her nose held down on the old trail, our  
own trail, the out trail

From Cadiz Bar on the Long Trail—the  
trail that is always new.

There be triple ways to take, of the eagle or the  
snake,

Or the way of a man with a maid ;

But the sweetest way to me is a ship's upon the  
sea

In the heel of the North-East Trade.

Can you hear the crash on her bows, dear  
lass,

And the drum of the racing screw,

## L'ENVOI

As she ships it green on the old trail, our own  
trail, the out trail,

As she lifts and 'scends on the Long Trail—  
the trail that is always new ?

See the shaking funnels roar, with the Peter at  
the fore,

And the fenders grind and heave,

And the derricks clack and grate, as the tackle  
hooks the crate,

And the fall-rope whines through the sheave ;

It's ' Gang-plank up and in,' dear lass,

It's ' Hawsters warp her through ! '

And it's ' All clear aft ' on the old trail, our  
own trail, the out trail,

We're backing down on the Long Trail—  
the trail that is always new.

O the mutter overside, when the port-fog holds  
us tied,

And the sirens hoot their dread !

## L'ENVOI

When foot by foot we creep o'er the hueless view-  
less deep

To the sob of the questing lead !

It 's down by the Lower Hope, dear lass,

With the Gunfleet Sands in view,

Till the Mouse swings green on the old trail,

our own trail, the out trail,

And the Gull Light lifts on the Long Trail—

the trail that is always new.

O the blazing tropic night, when the wake 's a  
welt of light

That holds the hot sky tame,

And the steady fore-foot snores through the  
planet-powdered floors

Where the scared whale flukes in flame !

Her plates are scarred by the sun, dear lass,

And her ropes are taunt with the dew,

For we 're booming down on the old trail,

our own trail, the out trail,



## L'ENVOI

We 're sagging south on the Long Trail—  
the trail that is always new.

Then home, get her home, where the drunken  
rollers comb,

And the shouting seas drive by,

And the engines stamp and ring, and the wet  
bows reel and swing,

And the Southern Cross rides high !

Yes, the old lost stars wheel back, dear lass,  
That blaze in the velvet blue.

They 're all old friends on the old trail, our  
own trail, the out trail,

They 're God's own guides on the Long  
Trail—the trail that is always new.

Fly forward, O my heart, from the Foreland to  
the Start—

We 're steaming all-too slow,

## L'ENVOI

And it's twenty thousand mile to our little lazy  
isle

Where the trumpet-orchids blow !

You have heard the call of the off-shore  
wind

And the voice of the deep-sea rain ;

You have heard the song—how long ! how  
long ?

Pull out on the trail again !

The Lord knows what we may find, dear lass,

And The Deuce knows what we may do—

But we're back once more on the old trail,  
our own trail, the out trail,

We're down, hull down on the Long Trail—  
the trail that is always new.





PR 4854 .B5 1916 v.2 SMC  
Kipling, Rudyard,  
Barrack-room ballads and  
other verses 45th ed. --



